
Chapter 11 - DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

Anyone choosing to participate in an ACBL sanctioned event is subject to the ACBL Code of Disciplinary Regulations. See Chapter 4, Section Three IV.G for regulations concerning clubs. This chapter discusses the system and procedures in place to deal with violators of ACBL conduct and ethics rules.

SECTION ONE: ACBL RECORDER SYSTEM

I. THE RECORDER

A recorder is an official of the sponsoring organization and the sponsoring organization assigns the recorder's duties in accordance with the Recorder Regulations and Procedures. Generally, these duties are to receive, investigate and respond to players' reports. Most often these reports concern matters of player conduct and ethics.

The recorder should be an experienced, knowledgeable bridge player who is tactful and apolitical. The recorder should be familiar with the *Laws of Duplicate Contract Bridge* and the *ACBL Code of Disciplinary Regulations*. See Appendices C and D.

II. NATIONAL OFFICE OF RECORDER

A. APPOINTMENT

The National Office of Recorder is established within ACBL headquarters.

B. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The function of the National Office of Recorder is to:

- Maintain documents forwarded by sponsoring organizations as set forth by the *Recorder Regulations and Procedures*; see Appendix C
- Periodically review existing player files and, when appropriate, refer a matter to the ACBL Recorder
- Review uninvestigated memos and forward to the appropriate recorder for investigation

III. OFFICE OF RECORDER

The ACBL Recorder is selected and hired by the ACBL CEO. His or her duties include advising unit and district recorders as necessary, conducting seminars at NABCs for recorders, advising the National Office of Recorder as necessary concerning files, and performing recorder duties at NABCs.

SECTION TWO: DISTRICT/UNIT DISCIPLINARY BODIES

I. APPOINTMENT

ACBL requires each district to appoint a District Disciplinary Chairman and a separate District Appellate Chairman. ACBL requires each unit to appoint a Unit Disciplinary Chairman.

Each district/unit appoints committee members according to its own established procedures, which may vary from district to district and unit to unit.

It is required that members of a tournament disciplinary committee not serve on a unit or district disciplinary committee dealing with the same matters. Members of the District Appellate Committee may not have served on a Tournament, Unit or District Disciplinary Committee dealing with matters coming before the District Appellate Committee.

II. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

On behalf of its unit or district, a Unit or District Disciplinary Committee acts on disciplinary matters in accordance with the ACBL *Code of Disciplinary Regulations*. See Appendix D.

A District Appellate Committee hears appeals from decisions of a Tournament, Unit or District Disciplinary Committee in accordance with the ACBL *Code of Disciplinary Regulations*. See Appendix D.

III. OPERATIONS

A unit or district must notify ACBL headquarters of who has been appointed chairperson of the District Appellate Committee and must notify ACBL when a chair changes.

ACBL does not subsidize expenses of any unit or district disciplinary body. All decisions made by disciplinary bodies must be reported to ACBL in writing.

SECTION THREE: DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES AT TOURNAMENTS

Although a Tournament Appeals Committee is most commonly called upon to review a tournament director's decision, it can be called upon to act as the Tournament Disciplinary Committee to judge matters of conduct, deportment, and ethics.

Disciplinary procedures at tournaments are intended to be expeditious and notices may be oral and the proceedings may be informal. For further information about disciplinary procedures at tournaments. See the Code of Disciplinary Regulations in Appendix D.

SECTION FOUR: ACBL APPEALS AND CHARGES COMMITTEE

I. MEMBERSHIP

The president of the ACBL Board of Directors appoints the chairperson and members of the ACBL Appeals and Charges Committee, who serve concurrently with the president.

II. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Appeals and Charges Committee is empowered to act on behalf of the ACBL Board of Directors in all matters assigned to it by the Code of Disciplinary regulations or referred to it by the ACBL Board of Directors.

SECTION FIVE: ETHICAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

I. MEMBERSHIP

The Ethical Oversight Committee consists of 15 members. During a member's term of office, a member may not be dismissed except for grossly inappropriate behavior. To remove a member of the committee, the President of the ACBL or the Chairman of the Ethical Oversight Committee will schedule a meeting of the members of the committee. Removal of a member requires a majority vote of the committee.

II. APPOINTMENT

Five members are appointed each year by the President of the ACBL for three-year terms. The Chairman of the Committee shall be elected from among and by the members of the committee. The Chairman may not serve more than three consecutive one-year terms.

III. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Ethical Oversight Committee acts upon charges brought by ACBL Management as the ACBL disciplinary body in cases of alleged cheating by the use of signals, other unauthorized information, other forms of cheating, or serious breaches of ethics, in accordance with the ACBL *Code of Disciplinary Regulations*. League Counsel, the ACBL President and the District Director (for the district of the person charged) are to be notified of a decision to hold an ethical oversight hearing. See Appendix D.

SECTION SIX: ACBL DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

I. MEMBERSHIP

The ACBL Disciplinary Committee consists of nine members.

II. APPOINTMENT

Three members are appointed each year by the President of the ACBL for three-year terms. The Chairman of the Committee shall be elected from among and by the members of the committee.

III. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The ACBL Disciplinary Committee shall hear referrals from actions of an NABC Tournament Disciplinary Committee and any other matter of original jurisdiction assigned to it in accordance with the *Code of Disciplinary Regulations*.

This committee will also act as an Appeals Committee when an action taken by an NABC Tournament Disciplinary Committee is appealed.

SECTION SEVEN: GUIDELINES FOR UNIT AND DISTRICT DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

Unit and district disciplinary committees are called upon to judge complaints of conduct and ethics. District Appellate Committees and the ACBL Appeals and Charges Committee hear appeals from decisions of lower jurisdictional bodies of

ACBL in accordance with the ACBL Code of Disciplinary Regulations (see Appendix D).